Exposing Non-Majors to Agriculture through a General Education Life Science Course

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Background

• "Integrated Life Science" can be used to meet the Breadth Life Science requirement of University Studies (General Education) for undergraduates.
• Faculty members from the related life sciences fields (including agriculture) can serve as instructors for the course.
• Affords opportunities to teach biology within the context of agriculture.

Potential Benefits

• Through the agricultural applications used to teach biological concepts, students are exposed to the food, fiber, and natural resources industry and systems, thus increasing agricultural literacy.
• Anecdotal evidence and prior research suggests improved student attitude and achievement toward biological science as these concepts are taught embedded in real-world contexts.

Future Plans

• Plans are in place to measure attitudinal changes in undergraduates enrolled in this course from the beginning to the end of the semester.

Text and Course Materials

• We use Campbell, Reece and Simon’s Essential Biology for the course.
• They have incorporated applications from agriculture, medicine and the environment.